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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

COUNTRY Austria

SUBJECT

PLACE ACQUIRED 3. Fraternization
Soviet Army Security

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

ARMY review completed.

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B. Fraternization

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1. Political officers claimed in their orientation lectures that Austrian police would report to the Soviet Kommandatura any observed fraternization. 25X1
2. all Party members report fraternization.
3. The Soviet Kommandatura patrolled all garrison towns and detained all EM, since all EM were supposed to be inside military compounds. The detained EM were turned over to their units for disciplinary action. 25X1
4. individuals arrested all fraternizers regardless of rank. For punishment, EM were generally sentenced from ten to fifteen days confinement in the battalion guardhouse for the first and second offenses. For the third offense they were returned to the USSR. these individuals were not punished in the USSR, but simply reassigned within the USSR.

C. Security, General1. Security Duties

- a. The 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. was responsible for the security of the border in the vicinity of St. Peter N 48-02, E 14-37, Austria.

(1) The companies were assigned in the following areas:

1st Plat., 7th Co. at Neustift N 47-56, E 14-36, Austria

2nd Plat., 7th Co. at Gaflenz N 47-53, E 14-43, Austria

3rd Plat., 7th Co. at Gaflenz

8th Co. at Ennsdorf N 48-12, E 14-29, Austria. Location of platoons unknown.

9th Co. at Ernsthofen N 48-08, E 14-29 and Ramingdorf N 48-04, E 14-27, Austria. Location of platoons unknown.

- (2) the 7th Company, manned control points on the railroad line and highways crossing the border within its zone of responsibility. The duties of the sentries, on the railroad control point, was to board trains, check the documents of all passengers for proper travel authority, and inspect the freight and

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all suspicious luggage. The sentries on highway control points stopped cars, trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians on the highways entering and leaving the Soviet Zone of Austria, checking for travel authority and cargo.

- (3) These sentries were to turn back all individuals crossing the border without proper four-language travel documents (German, Russian, French and English). They had no instructions to arrest anyone or detain anyone for the Austrian authorities. Cargo restrictions prevented fats, weapons, and scrap metal from being brought out of the Soviet Zone of Austria. Weapons, documents, books, and papers were barred from entry.

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b. Identification required of Soviet Army personnel to enter compounds:

- (1) Officers not with a company on border duty needed a special permit signed by the 95th Gds. Rifle Div. CG in order to enter the demarcation line area. Non-border military areas could be entered by officers upon the presentation of their identification documents and stating the nature of their business to the OD.
- (2) EM were permitted to enter or leave a military area only in formation under the command of an officer. In the demarcation area, the movement of EM was not quite so restricted. Here, EM were permitted to move freely within their company area for the purpose of guard relief, going to the PX, drawing rations, etc.
- the reason men on the border were permitted to move with less restriction than men at other areas was due to an insufficient number of officers to accompany EM on all required movements.

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2. Foreign Nationals

- a. The 3rd Bn. of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. employed two Austrian women as waitresses-dishwashers in the officers' mess. There were no other foreign nationals employed

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- b. there was a rapid turnover of waitresses in the officers' mess of the 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. due to pregnancy and for reported fraternization. Women who were caught fraternizing were fired and those who would not fraternize were also fired.

- c-g. These women were known to the guards and permitted to enter the compounds.

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- h-i. There were no Austrians or foreign nationals living in military areas

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3. Military Intelligence Section

The 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. had a reconnaissance unit charged with supplying intelligence data on enemy units.

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the reconnaissance unit had no connection with either the MGB or MVD.

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4-6. MVD/MGB and Arrests

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Within the 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., there was an officer, a Capt. Ivan KACHKOV, MVD/MGB, who was charged with the discipline of the battalion. This officer had the full authority to arrest and confine both officers and EM of the 3rd Bn. but not of the rest of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. The personnel of the regiment fell under the supervision of the MGB/MVD officer of the regiment.

7. Censorship

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- a. All mail from soldiers and to soldiers was censored at the point of origin. Mail from the USSR was censored at the local post offices

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(1)-(2)

- (3) Only letters were censored. As of the summer of 1952, EM were permitted to mail only one package a month to the USSR. This package could not exceed 40 Austrian schillings in value. When this regulation became effective EM stopped sending packages home because they could no longer send anything worthwhile. Officers were permitted to send home one package a month weighing up to 10 kg. There was no limitation on the value of the packages sent by officers. Both EM and officers' packages were given to the battalion postal clerk opened.
- (4) It was prohibited to mention in letters military information such as T/O & E, tactics, duties, regulations, names of officers and towns. Letters coming from the Soviet Union could not mention arrests, shortages, or anything derogatory to the Soviet regime. With the exception of love letters, most EM wrote "Am well. Will be home soon."
- (5) Violation of censorship regulations were noted. For the first and second offenses the offending lines were blacked out. The third time, the letters were sent to the commanding officer of the unit with instruction to instill security consciousness in the unit. The commanding officer generally reprimanded the individual responsible and warned him of the seriousness of his offense. Serious violations or repeated offenses were punished by court-martial.

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there were approximately 13 courts-martial for this reason.

- b. The use of the Austrian postal service was prohibited

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8. Photos

Photography of barracks, equipment, and other items of a military nature was prohibited. All troops could possess cameras. Film could be developed in the PX's or given to an officer for development in an Austrian store. It was forbidden for troops to be photographed in Austrian studios.

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9. Kommandatura

[redacted] there were Kommandaturas stationed in Amstetten /N 48-80, E 14-53/ and St. Valentin /N 48-10, E 14-31/, Austria. [redacted] MGB/MVD officers in civilian clothes were attached to these Kommandaturas and conducted interrogations there. [redacted]

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10. Kommandatura Patrols

Kommandatura patrols were used to apprehend all EM found outside their unit area and to detain these EM until called for by their respective commanding officers. (See par B3.)

11. Document Sections

- a. The 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. had a secret documents section.

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- b. The 7th Co., 3rd Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt. kept secret documents in a safe in the company orderly room in Gafenz, Austria. The company clerk, a Pvt Aleksander Pavlovich CHURBANOV, was in charge of the safe. Some of the documents stored there were: company correspondence, company strength reports, records of issue of clothing and equipment, inventory of company equipment, personnel records of EM in the company, technical and field manuals, and maps of local areas. Also in the safe were documents classified as TOP SECRET as follows: communication call-signs, radio frequencies, authentication table, radio operator's instructions, and radio descriptions.

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